



VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Page 5, first paragraph

A solution for providing widely accessible, low cost and enhanced user interface functions for a device is disclosed. The solution involves embedding web access functionality into the device including a web server that provides a device web page. The device includes an embedded network interface that enables access to the device web page by a web browser. A user of the web browser accesses the user interface functions for the device through the device web page. The web server functionality may be implemented with existing circuitry in a device, such as an [exiting] existing processor, memory, and input/output circuitry that normally perform device-specific functions, thereby avoiding the extra cost and space required for dedicated web server hardware.

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Page 11, second paragraph

In one embodiment, the device 10 is a printer device wherein the processor 200 and the memory 210 [preform] perform image rendering functions and the device-specific hardware 300 includes printer hardware and associated circuitry and wherein the input/output circuitry 220 provides network access to the printer device 10. The web server functionality is embedded into the printer device 10 by providing software or firmware for the processor 200 and by utilizing space available in the memory 210 and by using the existing input/output circuitry 220 such as Ethernet circuitry to transfer HTML files.

Page 12, second paragraph

In yet another embodiment, the device 10 is a washing machine wherein the processor 200 and the memory 210 [preform] perform functions for controlling wash cycles. The device-specific hardware 300 includes hardware such as motors, valves, sensors, and associated circuitry. The web server functionality is embedded into the washing machine 10 by providing software or firmware for the processor 200 and by utilizing space available in the memory 210 and by adding the input/output circuitry to the [video] device 10.

Page 20, first paragraph

The web page 18 for the printer may also include manuals, parts lists, and other associated publications. These publications may be stored within the device 10 in, for example, a nonvolatile memory, or may be referenced elsewhere via hyperlinks contained in the web page 18. These publications contain dynamic information such as updated manuals as well as new and updated software driver routines for the device 10.